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## *η Cassiopeiæ.* By Thomas Lewis.

In the *Monthly Notices*, vol. lv. 1, 1894 November, in my remarks on the orbit of *η Cassiopeiæ*, on page 20, "the combined mass is 3·54" should read "the combined mass is 1·69."

I take this opportunity of sending an extract from a letter received from Mr. Hermann S. Davis, Columbia College, New York, at the same time remarking that the parallaxes used were derived from Professor Pritchard's list. "I have only recently completed a determination of parallax for this star from Rutherfurd photograph measures, using six pairs of comparison stars, the result being

$$\pi = +0''\cdot443 \pm {}''\cdot043.$$

Referring to Socoloff's reduction of Schweizer's observations (*Annales de l'Observatoire de Moscou*, vol. iii. part 2), I find that the values of $\pi$ given there are

$$+0''\cdot3743 \pm {}''\cdot0723 \text{ in distance}$$

and

$$+0''\cdot1386 \pm {}''\cdot0849 \text{ in position,}$$

whereas you have $0''\cdot202$ and $0''\cdot139$ respectively in your article. The former value is obtained by assuming that the negative sign of the coefficient $k$, on page 88 (*Annales*), is a misprint for +.

"If, however, we adopt the author's own interpretation, we get $0''\cdot374$, as given on page 89 (*Annales*)."

With this corrected value and Mr. Davis's new result, the mean parallax of *η Cassiopeiæ* is $0''\cdot285$.

1895 *March* 30.

## *Equatorial Comparisons of Jupiter and* 1 *Geminorum,* 1895 *January* 5 *and* 10. By John Tebbutt.

In consequence of cloudy weather, which has prevailed here almost uninterruptedly since the beginning of the year, I only succeeded in getting comparisons of *Jupiter* and 1 *Geminorum* on two nights with the filar micrometer on the 8-inch equatorial. On January 5 I obtained twenty-four comparisons on the single thread of the micrometer, in each of which both limbs of the planet were observed, the corresponding comparisons for difference of declination being equally divided between the north and south limbs. On the 10th twenty comparisons were similarly made. The corrections for phase and refraction are in-

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sensible. The planet's semidiameter on page 280 of the *Nautical Almanac* is employed in the reductions of the differences of declination from the limbs to the centre, and the mean place of the star is derived from the Greenwich Five-year Catalogue of 258 fundamental stars. The tabular places of the planet are interpolated with second differences from page 250 of the *Nautical Almanac*. As the steadiness and definition of the objects were satisfactory, it is hoped that the tabular corrections will bear favourable comparison with those derived from meridian observations.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | d h m s | d h m s |
| Windsor M.T. of mean of transit of planet's centre ... ... ... | Jan. 5 12 50 8 | Jan. 10 10 46 35 |
| | h m s | h m s |
| Adopted mean R.A. of star for 1895·0 ... | 5 57 44·20 | 5 57 44·20 |
| Reduction to apparent R.A. for date ... | + 1·62 | + 1·64 |
| Planet's centre – star ... ... ... | – 4·43 | –2 41·19 |
| Correction for parallax ... ... ... | + 0·06 | + 0·01 |
| Concluded geocentric apparent R.A. of planet | 5 57 41·45 | 5 55 4·66 |
| Geocentric apparent R.A. from *Nautical Almanac* ... ... ... ... ... | 5 57 41·14 | 5 55 4·26 |
| Correction for *Nautical Almanac* ... ... | + 0·31 | + 0·40 |
| | ° ′ ″ | ° ′ ″ |
| Adopted mean Declin. of star for 1895·0 ... | +23 16 6·8 | +23 16 6·8 |
| Reduction to apparent Declin. for date ... | + 8·7 | + 8·7 |
| Planet's centre – star ... ... ... | –41·9 | – 9·0 |
| Correction for parallax ... ... ... | – 1·7 | – 1·8 |
| Concluded geocentric apparent Declin. of planet ... ... ... ... ... | +23 15 31·9 | +23 16 4·7 |
| Geocentric apparent Declin. from *Nautical Almanac* ... ... ... ... ... | +23 15 32·0 | +23 16 4·2 |
| Correction for *Nautical Almanac* ... ... | – 0·1 | + 0·5 |

*The Observatory, Windsor, N.S. Wales:*
1895 *February* 3.

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## *Occultation of Antares,* 1894 *October* 31. By R. T. A. Innes.

I observed this occultation using Mr. W. F. Gale's $6\frac{1}{4}$-inch refractor, by T. Cooke. Power of eye-piece about 190. The disappearance in sunlight was instantaneous; the reappearance was after sunset, but still in strong daylight. My eye was fortunately fixed on the spot of reappearance. I noticed a faint bluish light, which, whilst I was wondering what it was, seemed to stretch towards the Moon's limb; then *Antares* flashed out ruddy and all but instantaneously. I then saw that the faint light which I first perceived was the companion, which was immediately well separated from *Antares*. I called two ladies who were near the telescope, and they both saw the companion without any prompting. Until *Antares* emerged the companion seemed to be connected with it or the Moon's limb by an electric arc. Definition perfect.

*Sydney:*
1895 *February* 21.

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## *Pallas and Vesta in* 1895. By W. W. Bryant.

*Pallas* is very well placed this year for observation in the northern hemisphere, and as it might be interesting to take differential observations of it in comparison with bright stars, such as are easily within reach of small telescopes, I have made out a list of some such stars (within the limits of the B.A. Catalogue) as lie nearly in the track of the planet.

I have done the same for *Vesta*, though its south declination makes it much less convenient, especially as it makes it rise so late for some time. Still it passes near some well-known stars, notably $\delta$ *Aquarii*.